

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling apparatus for assembly of mailpieces, said apparatus including means for assembling said mail pieces, said assembling means including a plurality of stations for accumulating documents or inserts into said mailpieces as accumulations of said documents or inserts move through said stations, said plurality of stations including at least one upstream station and a control insert feeder located downstream of the upstream station, the control insert feeder feeding the initial control insert into an initial one of said accumulations, and a scanner, said scanner reading data from an the initial control insert, ~~said initial control insert being fed into an initial one of said accumulations by a downstream one of said stations~~, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) storing a mailing control file, said mailing control file comprising a plurality of mailpiece records, each of said records defining preparation of a corresponding mailpiece;
- b) reading data identifying said mailing control file from said initial control insert;
- c) responding to said data read from said initial control insert to:

- c1) open said mailing control file identified by said data;
 - c2) initialize said apparatus by forming accumulations in accordance with corresponding records in said opened file at each of said stations upstream of said ~~downstream station~~control insert feeder; and
 - c3) thereafter sequentially process records in said opened file and control said apparatus to form a corresponding sequence of mailpieces.
14. (Original) A method as described in claim 13 wherein at least one of said mailpieces includes a control insert and an item which is valuable or sensitive is affixed to said included control insert.
15. (Original) A method as described in claim 14, wherein said item is a credit card.
16. (Original) A method as described in claim 13 wherein said data is read from said initial control insert as said initial control insert is fed into an initial accumulation.
17. (Original) A method as described in claim 16 wherein said initial accumulation is a dummy accumulation .
18. (Original) A method as described in claim 13 wherein at least a plurality of said mailpieces include a control insert, said included control inserts including data identifying a corresponding record in said mailing control file, said included data being read to verify that said corresponding records have been used to control assembly of said plurality of said mailpieces.